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The Clarion

Hotel and Fort Streets

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ACTS TO CHECK COMMERCIAL VICE IN CITY

Special Committee is Named With View to Calling Public Meeting Soon

Businessmen of Honolulu in a special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday afternoon got down to facts on the local vice situation in a business-like way.

Deplorable conditions of vice in Honolulu, even after the closing of Iwilei, were recognized; the apathy of the police and of the general public, too, and how to minimize it, was freely discussed, and a resolution strongly favoring and endorsing a public meeting for consideration of the whole problem, with date to be announced later, was unanimously passed.

There was no mincing of matters at the Chamber of Commerce meeting; some few present who might have thought that the grand jury's action in closing the restricted district had automatically eliminated the necessity of further public action, soon discovered their mistake and entered seriously and heartily into the discussion. If a spade was a spade it was called such; what those present thought was true and pertinent they said, and, with some differing ideas but all along the same general idea of reducing the evil to the minimum here, each was accorded a respectful audience.

W. R. Farrington was the first speaker. After reviewing general conditions here, he said, that on upper Fort and School streets are vice districts perhaps even worse than the one in Iwilei had been. He referred to street walkers, to drug and opium traffic fostered by vice, and gave a graphic description of "Bloodtown" at Wahiawa.

James A. Rath told of the Iowa law, which darkened for a year houses where acts of prostitution were discovered, and recommended its adoption here.

Blames Public Tolerance
Other speakers were Rev. C. H. McVey of the Kalihi Union church, who blamed the general passive tolerance of the people themselves for conditions here; Frank C. Atherton, who

believes now is the time to stamp out vice; Judge Sanford B. Dole, who wants vice checked at least so it will not be a continual temptation to the passions of youth; W. R. Castle, who said that, even admitting a district like Iwilei is necessary and proper for the soldier, there was no reason why it should be saddled on Honolulu. "Take it to Shafter or Schofield," he said. "We don't want it."

Immediate Action Sought
A few of the members present were in favor of putting the whole subject up to a special committee, but generally the sentiment of the meeting was "not to pass the buck" but to decide at once on a public meeting and discuss the time and method of holding the same later.

"Strike while the iron is hot," was the idea of most of those present, "and keep on striking until the whole disgraceful blotch on Honolulu's good name is removed."

Other speakers were Judge W. L. Stanley, Supervisor Robert Horner, R. J. Buchly, H. E. Vernon and President George W. Smith of the chamber.

Mr. Atherton introduced the resolution, which was passed unanimously, as follows:

"Resolved, that the president appoint a special committee, immediately to make a study of the social conditions of this city, with a view to calling a public meeting at the earliest possible moment after it has devised a definite plan which will arouse the public to take action and clean up the evils existing in this city."

President Smith appointed on the committee Judge W. L. Stanley, chairman; W. R. Farrington, Robert Horner, Judge Sanford B. Dole, Frank C. Atherton and James A. Rath, to meet at 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

Action by the churches and other religious bodies was referred to. While the businessmen have no opposition to agitation by such organizations, they do not believe that it should or need hamper in any way the work of business institutions like the chamber, and they do not expect to turn over to churches what is directly in the scope of a broad organization like the chamber.

THREE QUARTER MILLION WOMEN IN ENGLAND REPLACE MEN WORKERS

[By Associated Press]
LONDON, Eng.—The saying that woman's place is in the home has little application in war time. There are now in the British Isles 3,219,000 women employed outside their own homes. It is generally recognized that their rally to work "in the national interest" is going to make it difficult for Parliament to refuse the demand for suffrage which will be renewed when hostilities end.

During the first two years of war the increase of women workers, exclusive of purely feminine occupations, was 866,000. Of these 766,000 directly replaced male labor. In other words, more than three-quarters of a million women left their homes to replace that number of men for military service. In most instances the women went into the munition plants, where a considerable number of them have given up their lives in "doing their bit."

Women Rise to Opportunity
There seems to be no limit to the class of work women can do. At first it seemed strange to see girl conductors on the buses, girl window cleaners, van drivers and messengers. But as the war progressed the field broadened and now even in building, mining and quarrying scores of women are employed. The metal trades also have claimed their share of the new industrial army. It must be understood that this is an army in skirts. As a matter of fact, skirts are worn for the most part only in those occupations which bring women in touch with the public. In most of the factories and shops, the breweries and the railway yards, jumpers and regulation overalls are the approved costume. The bus and tram conductors, or "conductresses," are jaunty in their neat blue tunics and skirts reach just below the knees—low enough to overlap close fitting black leather puttees. There is seldom a glimpse of stocking. The bus companies issued an order recently that no silk hosiery should be worn.

War Workers Are 100,000
It is stated that probably 100,000 of the women "war workers" have been recruited from those formerly engaged in purely feminine occupations—domestic, dressmakers, milliners, etc. The servant problem is becoming more and more acute, for the demand for munition workers is increasing day by day and the wages offered are far beyond the dreams of avarice to a majority of the English domestics.

The number of women employed in railway work has increased more than 200 per cent. Ordinarily the only railway posts open to women were clerks, ships and carriage cleaning tasks. Now there are women ticket collectors, porters, engine cleaners and workshop laborers. In Glasgow and some other cities women are being tried out as tram drivers and motorwomen.

Statistics Are Compiled
Interesting statistics regarding woman's part in war work have been collected by the employment bureau of the Board of Trade. The number of women recruited to industrial occupations between July, 1914, and July, 1916, was 362,000. Of this number 263,000 directly replaced men. In commercial occupations the increase in the number of women workers was 198,000, while the number of women replacing men in this class was 201,000. This apparent discrepancy

is accounted for by the transfer of women from the feminine side to the male side of the establishments. The increase in women clerks amounts to only 45,000, all of whom, however, have replaced men.

The increase of woman workers in hotels and places of entertainment is only 19,000, yet the number of men replaced in these establishments is 31,000, many of the old female employees now doing the work of men.

There has been much more discussion lately as to whether the city woman is a success on the farm and the point is far from being settled. Nevertheless 66,000 more women are working steadily at agriculture today than in July, 1914. In 1914 there were only 2000 women employed in government arsenals and dockyards. Now there are over 70,000. The English breweries formerly employed 8000 women. Now they have 18,000. And so it goes through all the industries. After a while the industrial post-war problems are going to offer much food for reflection, and, to be amicably solved, will require an intelligent skill of direction and "square dealing" equal to the best thought and energy put forward in the war itself.

GLASGOW PEOPLE LIVE IN TERROR OF APACHE GANG

GLASGOW, Scotland.—Gangs of street ruffians of the Paris Apache type are terrorizing this city at night. In certain sections the citizens are practically living under a reign of terror. Women and girls are attacked constantly, and the gangsters often enter shops, smash things and mistreat the clerks and carry off what they please.

These gangs have picturesque names. One is the "Redskins," whose leader is a young woman, called the "Queen of the Redskins."

The "queen" has just been arrested, charged with assaulting another woman.

They had quarreled at a dance and agreed to fight it out the next night. During the melee it is alleged that the "queen" stabbed her rival 14 times.

Before the police could arrest the woman they were severely handled by members of the numerous gangs. The other day an avowed "Redskin" was relieved of his weapon while in an entertainment house. This ugly instrument consisted of a rubber tube loaded with lead at one end and bound with whiplcord. It weighed about four pounds. This is quite a common type of weapon among these gentry.

People are clamoring for better police protection. On the other hand, it is urged for the constabulary, that so far they have received scant support from the city magistrates, several of whom are regarded as far too lenient with the prisoners when caught.

There is a call for the introduction of the "cat." So far the sheriff has been the more severe, although birching and the "cat" have not yet been ordered.

Pive thousand miners at Johnstown, Pa., went on strike.

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